

THE GLEMSFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk, and the Sudbury Union.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1914.

Prepared in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board.

Population 1891, 2375; 1901, 1975; 1911, 1499. Area in Acres, 2246. Number of persons per acre, 0·6.

During the last six years the population has greatly declined, owing to the closing of three factories engaged in mat-making and horse-hair seating.

Physical site, on boulder clay above the Stour Valley, chalk underlying at depth of 130 ft.

Chief Occupation and Industries—Agriculture, Hair-weaving, Hair-drawing, and Mat-making.

The Parish of Glemsford obtained Urban powers in 1896. Prior to this formed part of the Melford Rural District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of births registered during the year was 30, equivalent to a birth rate of 20·0 per 1000 of the population. The birth-rates during the previous seven years were as follows:

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Births	40	30	28	29	26	28	29	30
Birth-rate	20·3	15·1	14·7	15·1	17·3	18·6	19·2	20·0

DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered during the year was 24, to which have to be added 5 deaths belonging to the district, which occurred outside the district, making the total deaths 29, equivalent to a death rate of 17·3 per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the previous seven years were as follows:

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Deaths	32	22	24	27	26	28	19	29
Death-rate	16·2	11·1	12·6	13·5	17·3	18·6	12·5	19·3

Infantile Mortality. No deaths of children under one year of age occurred. The following is the record for the last seven years:

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Deaths of children under one year	8	2	3	5	7	4	2	0
Rate per 1000 of births registered	200·0	66·6	107·1	172·3	269·2	142·8	69·0	0

General Mortality. From pulmonary tuberculosis 3 deaths occurred. From cancer there were 5 deaths, from heart diseases 6, and from bronchitis and pneumonia 3 deaths. 11 of the deaths were of old persons over the age of 75.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The district has been very free this year from the zymotic diseases, only three notifications were received, two of these were cases of erysipelas and of little importance. One case of enteric fever occurred in an elderly man, who recovered, the origin of the attack was probably due to his well water being found impure, and which he used, as it was more convenient to him than the public supply, no other cases occurred.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS. One case of this disease was notified, the residence was inspected and instruction given also the case was reported to county tuberculosis officer. Three deaths of cases notified in the previous year occurred, after burial the rooms, bedding, and clothing were disinfected.

OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS. One of tubercular peritonitis was notified, a woman who was removed to St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, where she died.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The district has been very free this year of measles, whooping cough, and chicken pox.

HOUSES OF THE WORKING CLASSES. There is ample house accommodation in the district, and several habitable cottages are at present empty; most have garden ground or else allotments. The cleanliness of surroundings is frequently inspected.

The Sanitary Report of the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. H. L. Taylor.

Action taken under part I. of the Housing, &c. Act, 1909.

1.	The number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purpose of section 17 of the act	26
2.	„ „ of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
3.	„ „ representations made to the local authority, with a view to the making of closing orders	4
4.	„ „ closing orders made	4
5.	„ „ of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	3
6.	„ „ of dwelling houses which after making closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	0
7.	„ „ of dwelling houses voluntarily demolished	2

8. The general character of the defects found to exist were mainly dampness, arising from the lack of a damp course, and the use of porous brick floors, unpaved and undrained backyards, deficient ventilation in living rooms, through windows not being made to open. This latter defect is being remedied.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. The privy cesspit and pail closet system is the chief method of dealing with excremental sewage, which is disposed of on garden or allotment ground. The sewers and drains are mainly used for slop and storm water, which flow into ditches, which are kept clear of foulness by being frequently cleaned out. A new six-inch foul water drain 42 yards long has been put down. This was to divert the water from an unsuitable, inadequate, and insanitary drain laid on private property, to the public sewer in Workhouse Lane. It conveys the drainage from eleven houses. All the ditches which take foul water have been cleaned out, viz.—Bell's Lane, Brook Street, George Lane, and Workhouse Lane.

WATER SUPPLY. The public water supply has been efficiently maintained. A sample of the water was submitted to analysis, when it was found that the quantity of iron contained in it was more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than in 1907. This result was very disappointing. The Council now have the question of filtering the water under consideration. There are now 341 houses and premises connected with the mains. Two samples of water from private wells were analysed and both were suspicious. Upon second samples being taken a week or two later, one had improved and was fit for drinking, and one still contained matter which pointed to pollution of some sort. Pending the filtration of the public supply, the Council took no action.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND SLAUGHTER HOUSE. There is only one registered dairy and cowshed in the district. Four other persons keep cows and sell milk or butter to any person who fetch them. The dairies and cowsheds are kept in accordance with the regulations. There is one slaughter house in use. It is well paved and drained and has a good supply of water from the public main.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. There are six factories and sixteen workshops. Two notices were received from the Factory Inspector relating to the provision of means of escape in case of fire. These notices arrived shortly after the outbreak of the war, and it was quite uncertain as to whether the factories in question would have to close or the workers be so reduced in numbers as to bring them outside the operation of the section of the act relating to the means of escape in case of fire. In these circumstances the Council resolved to stay their hand for a time. One workshop was found to be deficient in sanitary accommodation owing to the increase in the numbers of workers. The owners erected a new cesspool privy, upon the deficiency being pointed out to them.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN THE DISTRICT

There are	177	privies with fixed receptacles
„	276	do. moveable do.
„	24	fresh water closets
„	5	Waste or hand flushed closets
Total	482	

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

1	new cesspool closet has been erected
2	pail closets have been substituted for cesspool closets
25	Nuisances have been remedied by written notice
30	do. verbal do.
22	Factory and Workshop inspections
5	Bakehouses inspected
21	Outworkers premises inspected
215	General Sanitary inspections

SCHOOLS. There is one Elementary School. The offices and class-rooms are in good sanitary condition. The drinking water is derived from the public supply. The medical inspection of the children is conducted by the County School Medical Officer.

GENERAL SANITATION. Systematic as well as constant special inspections have been made during the year, as embodied in this report.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

Tabular statements according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board of the statistics of births, deaths, and sickness within the district, are appended to the Official Reports.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.